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Weardale

Rural District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1956

Lintons, Printers, Crook

Weardale

Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

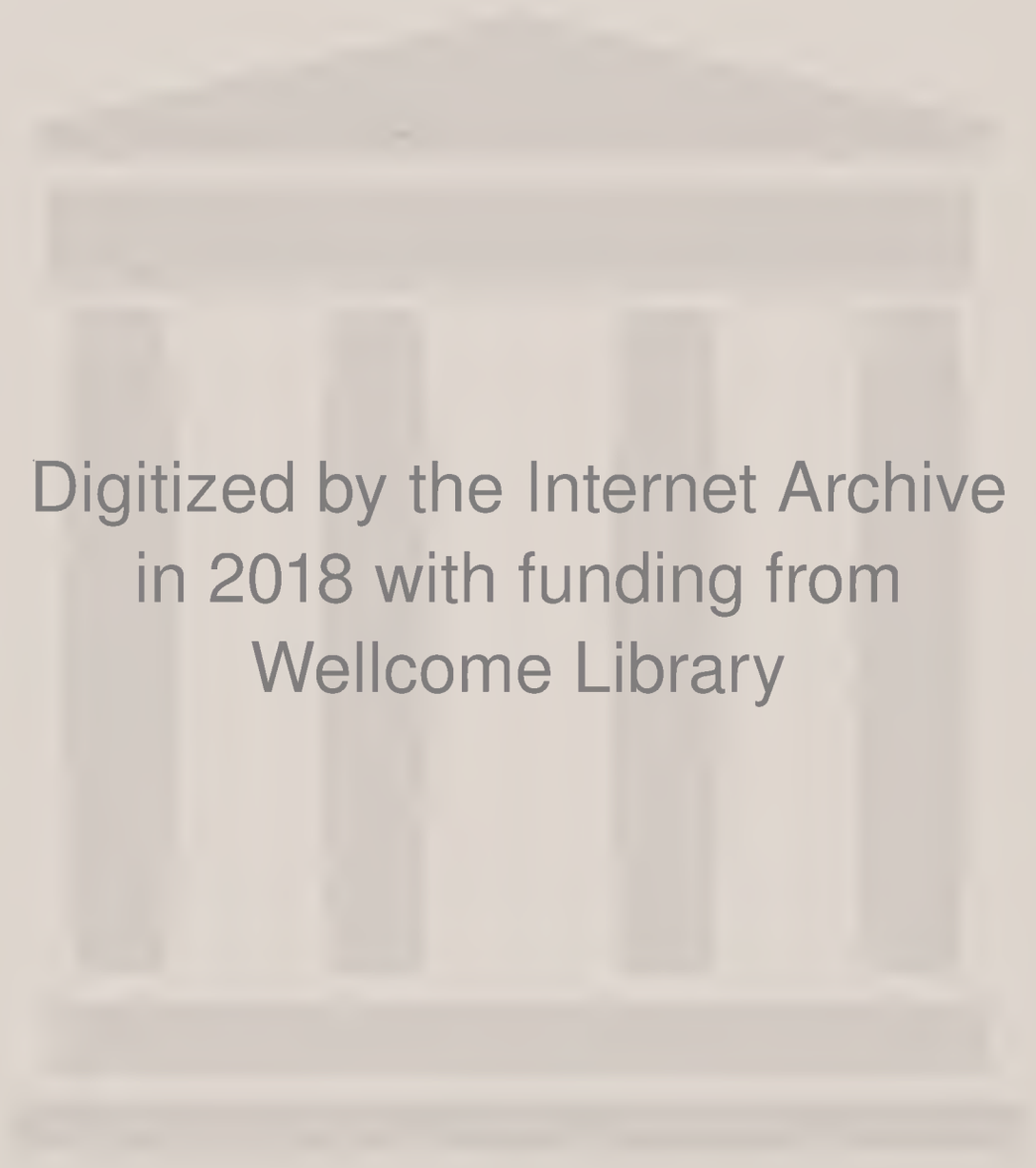
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health—G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector—R. G. SUDDICK, Cert., R.S.I., Lond.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1956 concerning the health of your area.

There is very little comment upon it except to say there was one case of paralytic poliomyelitis affecting a child in Stanhope, but there have been no secondary cases arising from this one.

The infectious diseases comprise the usual chickenpox, measles and the odd case of dysentery.

Slow but steady progress has been made in inspection of houses and these inspectorial visits will be continued in the forthcoming year.

I have the honour to be

Yours obediently,

G. A. MACGREGOR.

WEARDALE R.D.C.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1956

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	8,990
Area (In Acres)	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1956) ...	3,102
Rateable Value (Mid 1956)	£96,886
Product of Penny Rate	£353 7s 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	105	44	61
Illegitimate	4	2	2
	109	46	63

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	12.12
General Birth Rate (England and Wales) ...	15.7

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	4	2	2

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) ...	12.57

DEATHS

Total	Males	Females
124	68	56

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	13.79
Death Rate (England and Wales) ...	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	1	1	—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	1	1	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	9.17
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	...		23.8
Deaths from Cancer ...	...	...	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)		...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	—

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 6 Years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate under 1 year	Birth Rate
1951	18.03	64.18	12.20
1952	13.73	20.20	10.88
1953	13.83	—	11.08
1954	16.37	18.10	12.08
1955	14.14	52.63	10.50
1956	13.79	9.17	12.12

CAUSES OF DEATHS

		Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis Other	0	0
3	Syphilitic Disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases ..	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	3	1
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	2	0
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	1
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	0
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	4
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	2	0
16	Diabetes	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	18	18
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	11	14
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	0	0
20	Other Heart Diseases	7	5
21	Other circulatory Diseases	1	1
22	Influenza	1	0
23	Pneumonia	2	4
24	Bronchitis	3	0
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum ...	0	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	0	0
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ..	3	6
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0
34	All Other Accidents	2	1
35	Suicide	1	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War ...	0	0
	Total	68	56

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	—	—	—
Measles	60	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia	3	—	6
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (non-P)	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	—

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1951	—	—	22	—
1952	1	—	7	—
1953	—	—	21	—
1954	—	—	8	—
1955	—	—	2	—
1956	—	—	2	—

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1956

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	8
Measles ...	—	5	9	36	5	3	2	—	—	60
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 5 years		-	-	-		-	-	-
5 to 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 24 years	-	1	-	-		-	-	-
25 to 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 64 years	2	-	-	-		-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	2	1	-	-	-	-		-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

Year	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1951	4	5	9	1	2	3	2	3	5	—	1	1
1952	2	3	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	3	5	8	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	1	1	2	2	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
1955	4	1	5	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
1956	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The water supplies in that part of the Council's Area served by the Weardale Rural District Council, were well maintained. The supplies from the springs were fairly constant and no shortage arose.

Minor improvement works were carried out at Bishopley, Front Street, Frosterley and West Black Dene, and the main was extended to serve the four new Council houses at Eastgate.

(2) SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The cleaning of filtration areas on the various sewage works was carried out. Consultation and inspections were carried out in conjunction with the Inspector of the Wear and Tees River Board of new drainage (septic tank) installations and also in reference to the pollution of streams.

(3) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Under the Council's scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost up to a maximum of £12, for converting ash closets t o the water carriage system, 28 closets were converted. At the end of the year the types of closets were :—

Water Closets	1985
Ash-closets	722
Ashpit-privies	216.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING

No extensions of the areas covered by the service were made but the three vehicles were able to give a more frequent collection. The estimated weight of refuse remover was 5,124 tons. the vehicles covering 22,123 miles.

Refuse was disposed of at the main tip at Frosterley and also at Cowshill, Rookhope, Edmundbyers and Tow Law.

(5) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The whole time Rodent Operator was engaged on disinfestation of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips, sewer fields and sewers. Of the properties inspected 160 dwellings, 21 business premises and 14 other properties (refuse tips and sewer fields) were found to be infested. No charge is made for treatment carried out on private dwellings but work on business premises and farms is recoverable on the basis of actual cost plus overhead expenses.

(6) SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Visits have been paid to shops and food preparing premises in the district. No formal action was necessary and on the whole the standard of these premises is satisfactory.

3 applications for licences to store and sell manufactured ice cream were received and granted.

(7) INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections of the registered slaughter houses were carried out, informal action with regard to two premises resulted in necessary works being effected. The state of cleanliness was generally satisfactory.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale or human consumption on 35 instances (mainly tinned foods) and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

(8) SMOKE ABATEMENT

In this rural district there are few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance and no action was found necessary.

(9) FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and defects were remedied in 3 instances following informal action.

(10) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department during the year:

Infectious Diseases	3
Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	632
Housing (Overcrowding)	15
Sanitary Conveniences	56
Drainage	46
Water Supply	31
Food Premises	128
Shops Acts	38
Dairies etc.	4
Slaughter Houses	40
Tents, Vans etc.	16
Factories and Workplaces	46
Keeping of Animals	3
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacl	12
Smoke Abatement	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests	62

(11) NUISANCES ETC.

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with by means of notices:

	No of Informal Notices served	No of Statutory Notices served	Defects Remedied
Public Health & Housing Acts	6	—	6
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	3	—	3
Drainage	1	—	1
Factories	3	—	3
Slaughter Houses	2	—	2

(12) HOUSING

Housing inspections were carried out by the Department in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance programme.

Under the housing programme 46 new dwellings were completed and occupied (4 at Eastgate, 12 at Rookhope and 30 at Wolsingham). The total number of houses erected by the Council since 1946 to 31st December, 1956 is 397.

18 houses were under course of construction at Wolsingham.

7 new dwellings were erected by private enterprise (4 at Stanhope including 2 houses for the Police Authorities; 1 at Tow Law and 2 at Wearhead).

Under the Council's Direct Labour Scheme the property at the West End of Frosterley was reconditioned to give 6 dwellings.

In connection with applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949, consultations with various owners took place and during the year 30 applications were approved.